

He is in the habit of administering the pledge to condemned drunkards who are brought before the Mayor's Court, and from the records of arrest and return he is convinced that among the hundreds who have taken the oath to abstain from drink not more than 4 per cent. of the men and 12 per cent. of the women have broken it. The difference he explains in the women's case is that a dissolute woman is more liable to sink lower than a dissolute man, and that therefore all her associations must help to keep her down.

Bogus and impudent noblemen have long had a soft spot in their hearts for this country, and so wonder considering the prosperous career in clubs and so private houses which has been confoundingly opened to so many of them. In England, however, the home of "real live lords," these scions of noble houses generally realize they would be too apt to come to grief. But an amusing action for breach of promise was recently heard at the English Guildhall, the details of which prove that all the fools in the world don't live on this side of the Atlantic. Leen de Gorden, a Belgian viscount, pledged his heart, his title and his ancestral estates to the daughter of an English stone-cutter, who at various times since 1877 has accommodated him with various small loans amounting in the aggregate to \$35. The viscount was evidently in sore need of money, for in several letters to his affianced wife were produced in evidence, he admitted the purchase and sale of a shirt as of the utmost importance. The jury found a verdict for the stone-cutter's daughter for £300, which was a generous estimate of the affection of a one-shy nobleman.

Mr. Christian K. Ross is reported to regard the latest clew to the whereabouts of his son Charlie as the most hopeful which he has received for several years. The letters from England which describe the counts party of the lost boy are written by persons known to be responsible, and the evidence is strong that this child died in the neighborhood knew that a boy of that name had been lost. The gentleman who wrote one of the letters containing these statements, at the time of which he writes from London, where his children often heard the boy in question say that his real name was Charlie Ross, and that he was brought from America as a "big shop," and that he was the son of his mother, but whom the woman who pretended to be his mother, but whom the repudiated, always kept her face veiled, her excuse being that the boy's father was abroad and she had taken a vow never to uncover her face in public until his return. These statements come, not in a roundabout way from persons whom nobody can identify, but truly from the men as to whose character there is no doubt.

Robert Remonding, 11, of 36 Greenwood Road, Dalston, London, N. E., and the other is W. G. Kingsbury, European head and emigration agent of the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway Company. The letters are sent to Collier's, of Philadelphia, to whom Mr. Kingsbury is well known.

HINTS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FOLLY AS IT FLIES.

o the Editor of The Tribune.

Six: I respectfully submit to you the following questions: Is not your editorial in this day's issue upon the subject of "Senatorial Courtesy" grossly unjust to Senator Conkling? Would it not be better and more courteous to wait until the Senator from New York has taken some official action with respect to the confirmation of Judge Robertson before caricaturing the distinguished Senator in the manner and form set forth in said editorial? Surely no man should be prejudiced, and much less one that is occupying the eminent and noted position of Senator Conkling.

New York, April 7, 1881.

In this helter world one must shoo folly as it flies. We cannot wait until the nomination has been hung up to committee to dry. The Senator's position has been ascertained with tolerable accuracy and no injustice has been done.—Ed.]

T. W.

New York, April 15, 1881.

THE SPEAKER OF THE COMMONS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Will you please inform me in your paper who is Speaker of the English House of Commons, and whether the office is a political one?

s. p.

Paterson, N. J., April 8, 1881.

[The Right Hon. H. B. W. Brand, Member for Cambridge-shire. He is a Liberal in politics, and was the party "whip" before he was first appointed Speaker. The Conservative Government, when it returned to power in 1874, reappointed him; so that, according to present usage, it is not a political office.—Ed.]

"WITH THE CONSENT."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Every time a prominent nomination hangs fire in the Senate, an "independent press" is profuse in emphasizing the prerogative of the President, who is to nominate by and with the consent of the Senate. It is then shown (as in your editorial of this morning) how utterly absurd it is to limit the authority conferred on the President to that of an automatic figurehead. Now for a few questions. Why do you never enlighten us on what is meant by "the consent" of the Senate? Why should the Senate be the figurehead any more than the President, and affirm as a mere matter of form every appointment sent in? Do not "consent" involve as much independence of action in him who is called upon to consent as in him whose duty it is to propose? If the Constitution had made it incumbent on the Senate to nominate and on the President to consent, would you have considered that the latter had obeyed the spirit of the law by putting his name and seal to every nomination without any exertion of his own judgment? And had you not then considered what you required to give cause and reason for such exercise of his prerogative? Isn't the busy intermeddling with matters of this sort a somewhat impertinent piece of arrogance?

New York, April 5, 1881.

W. B. JACKSON.

[The Constitution does not say: "The President shall nominate by and with the consent of the Senate." It says: "The President shall nominate, and by and with the consent of the Senate, shall appoint." The theory which we have been combating is this: That the Senators, senior and junior, individually or collectively, of the State where the appointment is to be made, shall nominate, and by and with the consent of the Senate and the President, shall appoint.—Ed.]

HALF A MILLION COUNTED OUT.

Then Senator Brown of Georgia rose To tell of his party's terrible woes, And he lifted aloft his martial nose, And aimed at his desk resounding blows. "The ballot-box in the South is free, But how is the North?" demanded he; "Democrats there, it is sad to note, Are barred of their sacred right to vote, Half a million are counted out!"

"And that's what I'm complaining about," Said Senator Brown of Georgia.

He was interrupted by Senator Hoar.

Who said, "How's that? Upon this floor That charge has never been made before. Give all of the facts I ask for now!"

"In Massachusetts alone," said Brown,

"In every county—in every town— Were Democrats kept from the polls last fall,

A hundred and forty thousand in all!

And thus our party was put to rout— Hancock kept out—

And that's what I'm complaining about!" Said Senator Brown of Georgia.

The Yankees—it makes my heart to bleed To see them drive from the polls, indeed,

The man who cannot his ballot read,

The lunatic, fool and incendiary—

If those could vote, we should carry the State! Democats, these disenchanted men!"

He pointed his desk and thundered again,

"Half a million are counted out."

In the North, no doubt,

And that's what I'm complaining about!" Cried Senator Brown of Georgia.

W. A. CROFFET.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Some Senator should have the "Memoirs of the United States" to read a part of his speech. They are excellent and militant to clear the galleries.—Cincinnati Commercial (Rep.).

The United States Senate is giving the country a splendid display of obstinacy, but the people would be better pleased with the transaction of a little important business.—(Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (Rep.).)

We sometimes think that if Judge Davis could be here, he may have a good chance to be a wonderful star in the political firm. But the judge is accustomed to sitting on the bench and on the fence that he cannot get down, even for the purpose of forwarding his own opinions.—(Buffalo Courier (Dem.).)

TALLY ONE.

Mahone is having an excellent moral effect upon the Democratic members of Congress. The Democratic Senators who have hitherto been silent upon the subject to cry out against repudiation and repudiation. They may talk this sort of thing until they begin to believe in it.

JEALOUS OF THE NORTH POLE.

Perhaps it would be a good plan for the country to sell all the old worthless ships it can buy, and then the whole Atlantic Ocean is ploughed with them, and then Lieutenant Gadsden, or some other enthusiast with a pair of gun

boots and a compass, can walk from one ship to another, and thus reach the long-sought spot. Congress is perfectly willing to appropriate \$100,000 for this, but why not the money and an appropriation is asked to improve the Mississippi River? The Government are freely spoken of. The Mississippi River is a Southern and Western institution. It is an outlet to Eastern markets, and the West is the market of the capitalist. Do not give it one cent. It is a trout stream which breaks through levees, deluges entire parishes and causes the country to lose its value. It is a waste of money and appropriation for the improvement of the great American water route, it would build up the South, and the world would conduct to the wealth and credit of the entire Nation. Uncle Sam's spare change, however, must be used in searching for the North Pole, and making breeches for the Indians.

WHAT EVERYBODY IS SAYING.

From The Prairie Transcript (Rep.).

There is not much of a good thing in the deadlock in the Senate, but there is one—an important thing—to have Mahone and Ben Hill settle the differences before the last and South to the detriment of the capitalists. Do not give it one cent.

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NO CHANCE FOR STRADDLING.

From The Albany Evening Journal (Rep.).

The question about which no editor can afford to be either neutral or "dumb" is this: "Did the President do right or wrong in nominating Judge Hoar to the Supreme Court?"

If he did wrong, then he has committed a political act.

It is not neutral, and neither the President

nor the Senate is settled, the loss of deadlock is the

matter, especially important business is waiting attention.

THE STREET-CLEANING MUDDLE.

A LETTER FROM THURLOW WEED—THE DANGERS OF ONE-MAN POWER IN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The street-cleaning fever has infected the minds of nearly all of our best and most influential citizens, and while it remains at red heat nothing will allay or soothe it. But as a New Yorker quite as anxious as our neighbors in favor of whatever will promote health and happiness, I desire to say a few admonitory words. It is neither necessary nor expedient nor safe to place a million dollars annually in the hands of any one man. In the present case the Mayor is showing too much solicitude to obtain the exclusive expenditure of this large amount of public money. Most men—indeed, all thoughtful and disinterested men—would reluctantly accept difficult and laborious duties involving such dangerous pecuniary responsibilities. And yet Mayor Grace refuses cooperation, while the intelligent Citizens' Committee, backed by the medical profession, endorses the "one-man power" demand of the Mayor.

This question ought to be settled, as other and more important questions have been, by compromise.

The Mayor may be advantageously associated with the Controller and some one eminent citizen like William E. Dodge, William Dowd, Morris K. Jesup, or James Talcott; or if a physician is preferred, Dr. Willard Parker, Dr. Sayre, Dr. Hammond, Dr. Gray, Dr. Van Buren, Dr. Flint, or Health Officer Smith. In this way what everybody wants would be secured.

Mr. Schmitz, in his Steinway Hall speech, said that he had a year or two ago accompanied the Police Commissioners in search of dumping ground for street garbage and dirt, and that an available locality was found, but in disregard of their duty they had refused or neglected to occupy it. But Mr. Schmitz omitted to inform his hearers that while the Commissioners were preparing to utilize the locality referred to, residents in its vicinity, apprehending disease, procured from the Legislature a law restraining the Commissioners from carrying their plans into effect.

The fact that the loaded seows of the Police Board lay ice-bound in their berths several weeks during the winter, and that at other times the river was so rough that they could not safely move, is ignored, though it is patent to every reflecting person that to clean the streets under such conditions was an impossibility.

I am disappointed in not finding an authorized denial that Mayor Grace is the owner of land on Staten Island that would be reclaimed and enriched by a process which would simultaneously clean our streets. It was positively asserted by eminent physicians at their induction meeting, our fifty streets have engendered pestilential diseases now prevalent to a alarming extent, will not country merchants, instead of coming to New York to make their purchases, be driven to other and healthier places? I do not, however, share in this alarm.

With all possible respect for this distinguished gentleman, I think, like my esteemed friend Judge Clute, they dealt in "glittering generalities." At

least, so far as I can judge, from his speech, he did not speak of the actualities of the disease, but of the

possibilities of a cure, and that is all that I can

gather from his speech.

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THE FEAR OF THE FIRE RECORD.

FLAMES IN MULBERRY STREET.

The six-story brick building Nos. 145 and 147

Mulberry-st. was burned yesterday morning.

The loss is estimated at \$30,000. William Smith

is the owner of the building; the doors

were left with steam-power to a number

of manufacturers. The building was wedged in among tenement-houses, and there was

great danger lest the fire should be communicated

to the surrounding buildings. The police made a

clear space around it with as much haste as possible

by driving out the neighboring tenants. The fire

was first discovered on the third floor at half-past

4 o'clock. It is supposed that it originated in

the engine-room in the basement, and that it crept up to

the third story unobserved. Soon after, the entire

building was in flames. Of the contents, nothing

was saved, but when, after three hours' work, the

firemen were the masters of the situation, the walls

of the building were still standing.

The following are the estimated losses:

BUILDINGS.—At Mulberry Street, Nos. 145 and 147, \$30,000.

CARPENTER.—At the residence of his parents, 638 Gates Ave., Brooklyn, of malignant diphtheria, 10th day January, \$2,000.

GENERAL.—At 10th and 11th Streets, \$2,000.